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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR) REPORT [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Port Facilities and Naval Vessels in Poti DATE DISTR. 5 November 1957

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REQUIREMENT NO. [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Two reports concerning the port of Poti [REDACTED]

Att. No.	Subject
1	Port facilities; description and identification of minesweepers and two destroyers.
2	Unidentified naval vessels with sketches of vessels, their electronic gear, and a depth charge; POL facilities.

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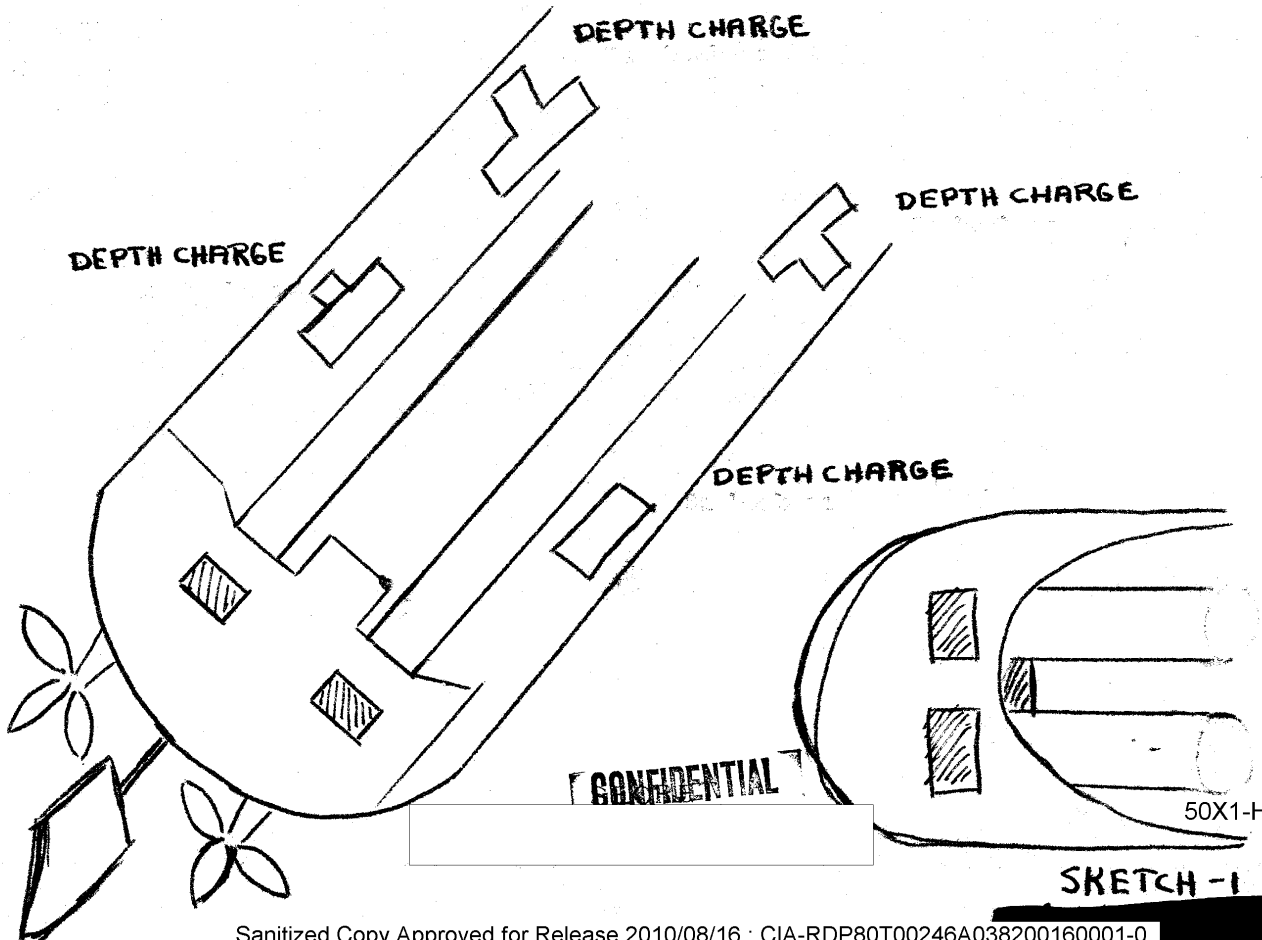
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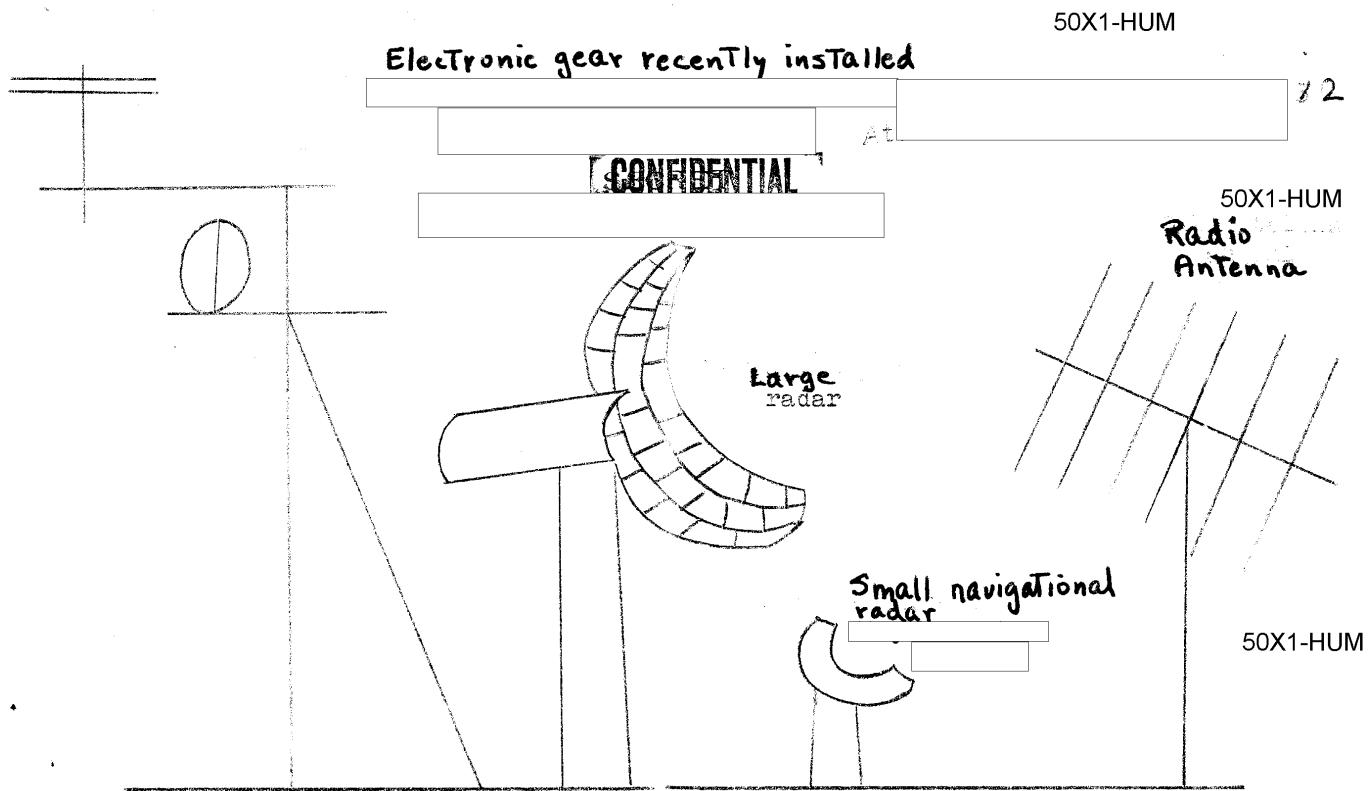
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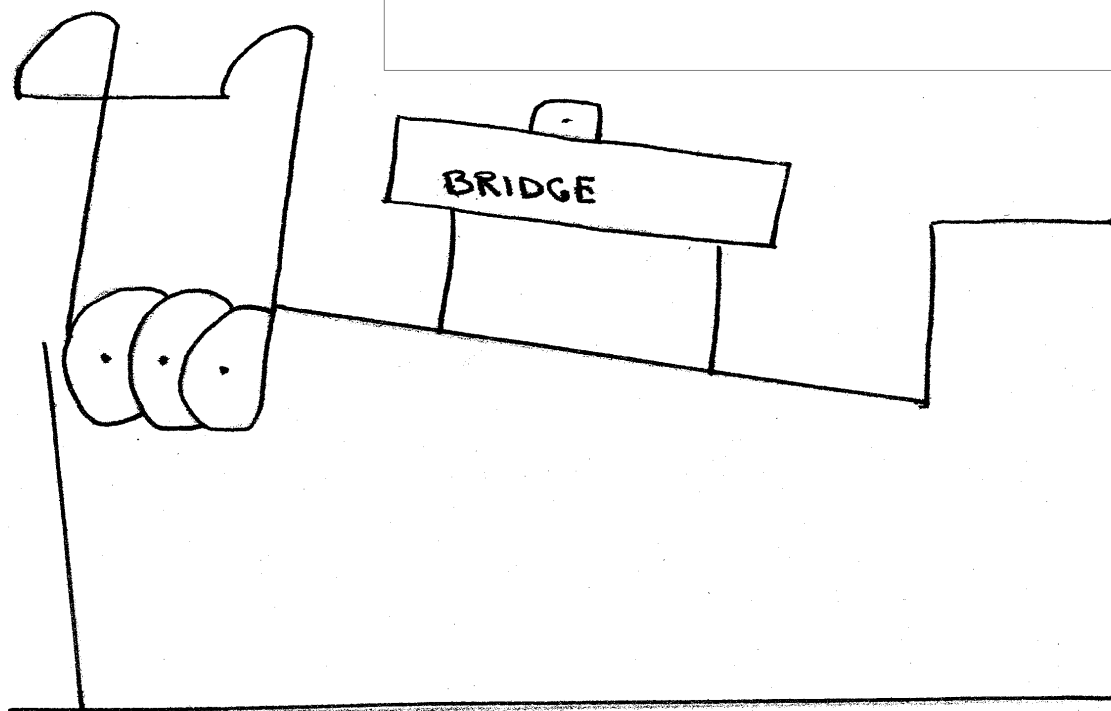
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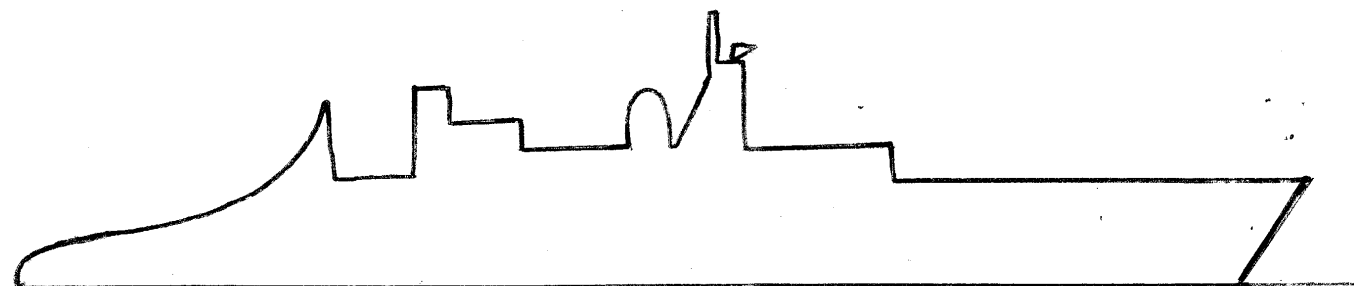
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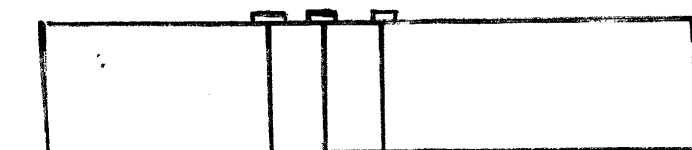
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Soviet Cruiser

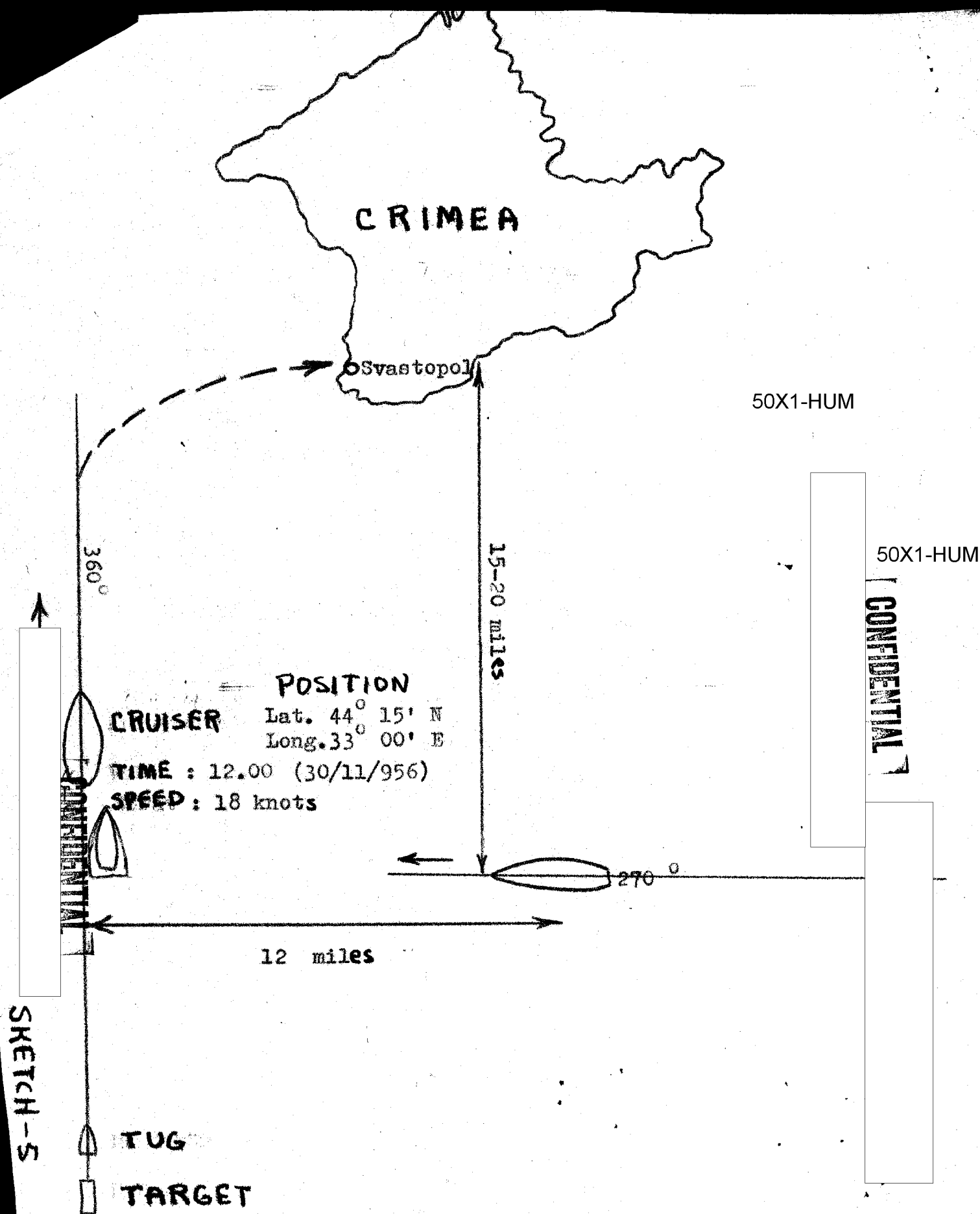


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SKETCH-4 of



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GENERAL INFORMATIONI- ORGANIZATION

1- A signal station was observed in this area located above the first house which is found to the right of the end mole. A SILO was located to the left of the above mentioned house.

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2- A square building with a triangular roof was observed in this area, east of where the light is located. The building has glass sidelights.

the above is either a factory which makes automobiles or ships. He observed approximately 10 trucks on a freight car with their chassis. In any case, no flashes from welding were observed during the night. A telescope was observed in this area having two lenses. It was being guarded.

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3- A small grid similar to the one at Perama was observed in this area which is used for hoisting small ships. A drydock having a hoisting power of 6000 tons was also observed in this area. It was grey and it had one crane. A long, rectangular, parallelogrammed ship was observed on it. It was flat of the stern and it looked more like a water tanker or tank. A shipbuilding factory was observed on the sternside and east of the drydock and approximately 100 meters away from the above mentioned drydock.

an electric hammer in operation day and night. At approximately 300 meters beyond the drydock, there was a factory with two funnels which emitted black smoke.

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A petroleum tank was observed in area No. 3 near the drydock. A 20000 ton tanker was observed unloading part of its cargo into it.

II- WARSHIPS**CONFIDENTIAL**


~~Ship~~ USSR Minesweeper No. 434 was observed outside the harbor. It had no other distinguishing

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
marks at the prow. The characteristics of this vessel ~~have~~^{are} as follows:

The minesweeper was approximately 50 meters long. It had a vertical prow with a spheric base for sound mines. The stern was slightly curved. It had a low and open bridge at the upper part with port holes whose upper and lower sides had an ovoid shape. The mast was on the sternside of the bridge which had three legs which formed into a small mast. A direction finder antenna was observed at the middle of the pole of the mast.

It had the following shape:

The utmost top of the pole had a radar whose plate was rectangular and it had a white, curved, parallel surface. 

The ~~smokestack~~^{funnel} was 5 meters away from the bridge with an inclination towards the stern. It was grey and it had a black painted band at its upper end. The space between bridge and smokestack was empty. The deck was continuous and at one level from the prow on, for 45 meters. Then, it became lower towards the stern. There were covered lanes on deck, right and left of the base of the bridge as far as the lowest part of the deck. There were two davits at the stern which are used for hoisting craft(s). A derrick wrapped around with an electric cable was located sternwise to the prow's turret. The derrick wrapped with an electric cable is used for neutralizing magnetic mines.

ARMATURE

A turret with two 4-5 inch guns was located at the prow. Another turret was located above and sternwise to this one. It was painted black and it was probably an anti-aircraft gun because it looked like the FOM POMS (sic).

Another turret was located sternwise to the smokestack. It had two guns like the ones at the prow.

Anti-aircraft ~~guns~~ (double-barrelled) guns were located to the right and left of the bridge. They looked like machine guns.

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[redacted]

4- Ten minesweepers having the same description as the above mentioned one were observed/anchored and moored in this area. [redacted]

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The following were observed in the same area: [redacted]

They were rather larger than the previous ones both in length and in width. The characteristics of these two vessels ~~have~~ as follows:

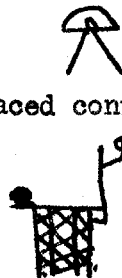
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A high prow without a forecastle, similar to the American destroyers. It had a low stern [redacted]


They had a low bridge where 4 W/T antennae were located. A semi-spherical, ~~curved~~ turret was located between the bridge and the mast. It had a spherical shaped base. The upper part was curved and it was horizontal at the bottom part. and, it had a man hole. at the stern. This turret turns left and right on its spherical base. It may be an emplacement for a radar or a searchlight.

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They had one mast with four legs. It ~~is~~ has interlaced connections as in sketch below.



A siren was observed on top of the main mast. It has a netted surface like that of the American warships with its corners cut. It curves outwardly and it ends up into two V-shaped plates. A rod protrudes from the middle of the outside surface. It passes through ~~and~~ its lower lips and supports itself on the base. It ~~is~~ probably ^{has} a revolving base.

Towards the stern and at the upper part of the main mast, there is a small mast which has a small, horizontal pole. A direction finder was observed on top of this pole. 

They had one ~~smokestack~~ ^{funnel} sternwise to the mast. The upper part towards the stern was low. It was painted dark grey and it had a black band at its upper end.

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ARMATURE

There are two turrets at the prow. That is, one gun which had a disproportionate length of 6-8 inches. The other turret which was located above and sternwise to the prow, had 4-5 inch guns.

The above mentioned warships were painted dark gray towards the blue.

The following were observed in area number 3: A very old submarine having a high prow. The submarine was probably disarmed. A tanker was being repaired near the above mentioned submarine. It is an auxiliary vessel belonging to the Fleet. There were three other warships there

a destroyer type vessel. This vessel's deck was high up to the middle. It becomes lower towards the stern. The prow had two 4-5 inch guns at the turret. All the above mentioned ships were being repaired.

5- A ten-meter long torpedo boat was located here. It had a sphere on its mast.

This torpedo boat had a low prow and its prow was vertical. It had two torpedo launchers to the left and right of the deck. They were 4-6 meters (long). They were located on each side. There was a gun on the bridge.

6- Many small ships were observed at this location. They were auxiliary ships to the Fleet. There were also many buoys here ready to be placed.

III- PROTECTION

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beyond the warships there, was a wireless antenna having many rows of wire and many cathodes (sic).

a tower at bearing B 20° A at a distance of approximately 2000 meters away.

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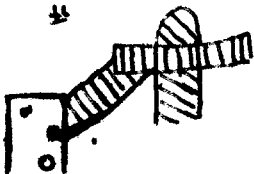
The tower was 20-30 meters high and it had the shape of a lighthouse. It was painted light gray with oblique lines. The tower had a circular walk around it at a distance approximately 4 meters from its uppermost point. The tower commutes with a house ~~which~~ there , probably by means of a staircase. *

During the night, the searchlights , one at the northern part of the city and the other at the southern part, flash their beam towards the sea in intervals.

At night, the port is closed by means of two rows of barbed wire which are held up by buoys. The two of them unite at the middle of the entrance. They are moved about with the aid of a small craft. The port remains open during the day. No activity was observed at the southern part of the harbor where the river is.

V- AIRPLANES

A twin motor ~~plane~~ was observed patrolling the city area. It looked like a hydro-plane. Its rudder had two circular plates, like spheres(probably). The plane travelled at a great speed.



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Naval Surface Activity

1. Two cruisers were sighted sailing in line astern from Poti to Batum approximately 15 miles from the coast on 3 November 1956.
2. From Poti harbor a partially submerged submarine was observed two miles at sea on a southerly course. 50X1-HUM
3. A large destroyer was being repaired in a floating dry dock [redacted] in early November. This destroyer had a single stack and two masts with a large radar unit on the forward mast.¹ the square panels on the fantail [redacted] are shown in Sketch #1, as "two flaps 60 x 45 centimeters in size [redacted] could open and close." Moored near the dry dock was a vessel with a large crane aboard. It was armed with one gun and equipped with radar.² Two mine-sweepers were being repaired near this vessel.
4. Five "destroyers of the 500 class", two submarines, a naval supply vessel and two motor torpedo boats were moored stern to in the naval base. Another MTB was on a slipway near the center of North Mole. 50X1-HUM
5. Two cruisers, similar in silhouette, sailed toward the Crimea [redacted] after having completed firing practise at sea. They were sailing in line astern and were followed by a tug towing a target with three radar reflectors. At 1300 hours they turned toward Sevastopol.³
6. Naval gunnery practise exercises were conducted off Poti on the nights of 5 and 11 November. On 5 November six volleys of three reports each were heard. The three reports were not precisely simultaneous. The volleys were two minutes apart. During the last volley the third report followed the first and second by two or three seconds.
7. On 11 November five volleys were fired with a two minute spacing between volleys. During the fourth volley one report was two seconds behind the other two. No searchlights or flares were employed in either of these exercises.

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Air Activity

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Five seaplanes with twin pontoons and reciprocating engines circled over Poti from 0900 to 1000 hours and from 1500 to 1600 hours on 8 January 1957. Their speed was estimated at 150 km/hr. These aircraft approached Poti from the direction of Batum and returned in that direction.

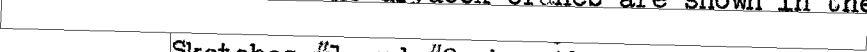
POL Facilities

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based at Poti bunker at Batum and that gasoline for local consumption in Poti is trucked up from Batum. No gasoline storage tanks were seen in Poti. Apparently Poti and Batum are not connected by a POL pipeline.

Comments:

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1. The superstructure of this ship and one of the drydock cranes are shown in the attached photographs.  Sketches #1 and #2 show the depth charge mine equipment and mast antennas. 50X1-HUM
2. This vessel is shown in Sketch #3.
3. The silhouettes of one of these cruisers and a drawing of the target are in Sketch #4. The position, course, speed and distances involved at time of observation are shown in Sketch #5.

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